DARK HORSE COMICS
#12
$2.50 U.S.
$3.15 CAN
THE YOUNG
INDIANA JONES
CHRONICLES
Dan Barry
DAN BARRY, GORDON PURCELL & LOUIS DANIEL

THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES™

PEKING

MARCH 1910

Script by **Dan Barry**

Pencils by **Gordon Purcell**
Inks by **Louis Daniel**
Colors and letters by **Gail Beckett**
Edited by **Barbara Kesel**
and **Ryder Windham**

Adapted from the teleplay by
Rosemary Anne Sisson

Story by George Lucas

This is a work of fiction. While Young Indiana Jones is portrayed as taking part in historical events and meeting real figures from history, many of the characters in the book as well as the situations and scenes described are inventions of the author's imagination. In addition, where real historical figures and events are described, the author has, in some cases, altered the chronology and historical facts for dramatic effect.

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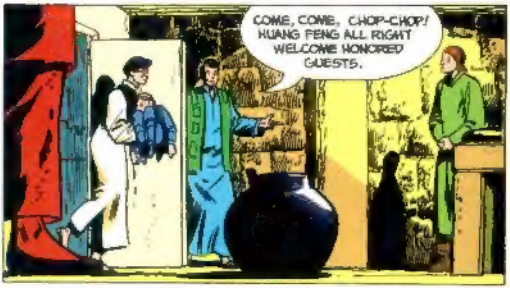
PRINTED IN CANADA

HENRY? HENRY...
HENRY, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M HERE. I'M WITH YOU...
MRS. JONES... MISS SEYMOUR!
WE ARE GROUNDED. LET ME HELP YOU DOWN.
OH, THANK YOU, MR. LI...
I'M SURE WE PASSED A LITTLE HOUSE BACK THIS WAY...
IT WAS BUT A HUMBLE FARMER'S HOUSE, MISS SEYMOUR.
SUCH A MODEST HOUSE WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE.
MR. LI, MY SON IS ILL, ANY SHELTER WOULD BE WELCOME.

THERE IT IS! THAT'S IT!


COME, COME. CHOP-CHOP! HUANG FENG ALL RIGHT WELCOME HONORED GUESTS.

COME, INDY. WE WILL GET YOU TO BED!

TELL THEM TO LIGHT A FIRE! AT ONCE!
AND PUT ON TEA! TEA ALWAYS HELPS!
WE MUST GET THESE WET CLOTHES OFF HIM.

IF ONLY THE LUGGAGE HADN'T GONE IN THE RIVER. ALL OUR CLOTHES— FOOD, MEDICINE, MONEY, EVERYTHING... LOST!
WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG, MISS SEYMOUR?
ONLY... BOOKS. AND MY LITTLE READING LAMP...
MR. LI—DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING ...DRY... FOR HENRY? THE POOR BOY IS SHIVERING SO...
NOW, IT MAY BE HARD FOR YOU TO IMAGINE, LITTLE FELLA ...BUT TO THAT POOR CHINESE FAMILY, MY MOTHER WAS ASKING FOR THE MOON.
HUHN...? HOW COME, GREAT-GRANDPA?
THEY HAD SO LITTLE ...LIFE WAS SO HARD...
...THAT THOSE FEW SIMPLE THINGS MY MOTHER ASKED FOR WERE THEIR LAST TREASURED POSSESSIONS.
A SIMPLE BLUE COTTON COAT TO KEEP ME DRY—
—A FEW SCANT LEAVES OF TEA.

...EVEN THE HANDFUL OF THINGS NEEDED TO BOIL WATER, THEY TOO WERE SCARCE AND PRECIOUS.
DRINK IT, HONEY. IT WILL DO YOU GOOD.
WELL, MR. LI —WHERE IS THE NEAREST DOCTOR?
IN THE NEXT VILLAGE, MRS. JONES. A CHINESE DOCTOR, DR. WEN CH-IU.
WAS HE TRAINED IN AMERICA?
NO, HE PRACTICES *CHINESE* MEDICINE.
WHAT ABOUT THE AMERICAN MISSION?
HUANG FENG SAYS THERE *IS* A DOCTOR THERE.
OHH, GOOD—
BUT THE MISSION IS AT LEAST THREE DAYS' RIDE AWAY.
AND—HE DOES NOT OWN A HORSE.
OHHH...
HE MAY BE BETTER AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

MOMMA! MOMMA!
I'M HERE, HONEY. MOTHER IS HERE. SHHH...
I NEED TO GO HOME.

I KNOW, HONEY. WE'LL GO HOME SOON...VERY SOON.
AND WHEN WE GET HOME, WE'LL GO TO UNCLE PETE'S FARM AND YOU CAN FEED THE CHICKENS AND RIDE HIS PONY. WON'T THAT BE FUN?
LAH-DA-DAH ...AND THE COTTON IS HIGH... LAH-DA-DEEE-DA...

...SO HUSH LITTLE BABY, DO-O-ON'T YOU CRY-Y...

I'M HUNGRY.
YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, THEN, HONEY?
WH-WHAT IS IT...?
CORN MEAL. VERY NOURISHING. VERY GOOD.
GO AHEAD, HENRY, DEAR. TRY IT.
THIS IS MAI-LING AND HER BROTHER, CHENG.
HI, CHENG.
HI, MAI-LING.
I THINK YOU SAID SHE HAD PIG'S EARS.
I TRIED TO MAKE POLITE CONVERSATION. IT DIDN'T COME OFF TOO WELL.
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT ARE THEY LAUGHING AT? I JUST SAID SHE WAS PRETTY.
NOT QUITE, INDY...

GOSH, CHINESE IS TRICKY.
THESE PEOPLE SEEM SO POOR. WE MUST NOT IMPOSE ON THEM MUCH LONGER.
THEY ARE GLAD TO WELCOME YOU. TO US, HOSPITALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT.

HUANG FENG OWNS ONLY HALF AN ACRE, YOU SAY? THAT SEEMS HARDLY ENOUGH TO [illegible] AND SOUL TOGETHER.
IT IS NOT EASY, MRS. JONES.
MOM, I'VE GOT A PAIN...

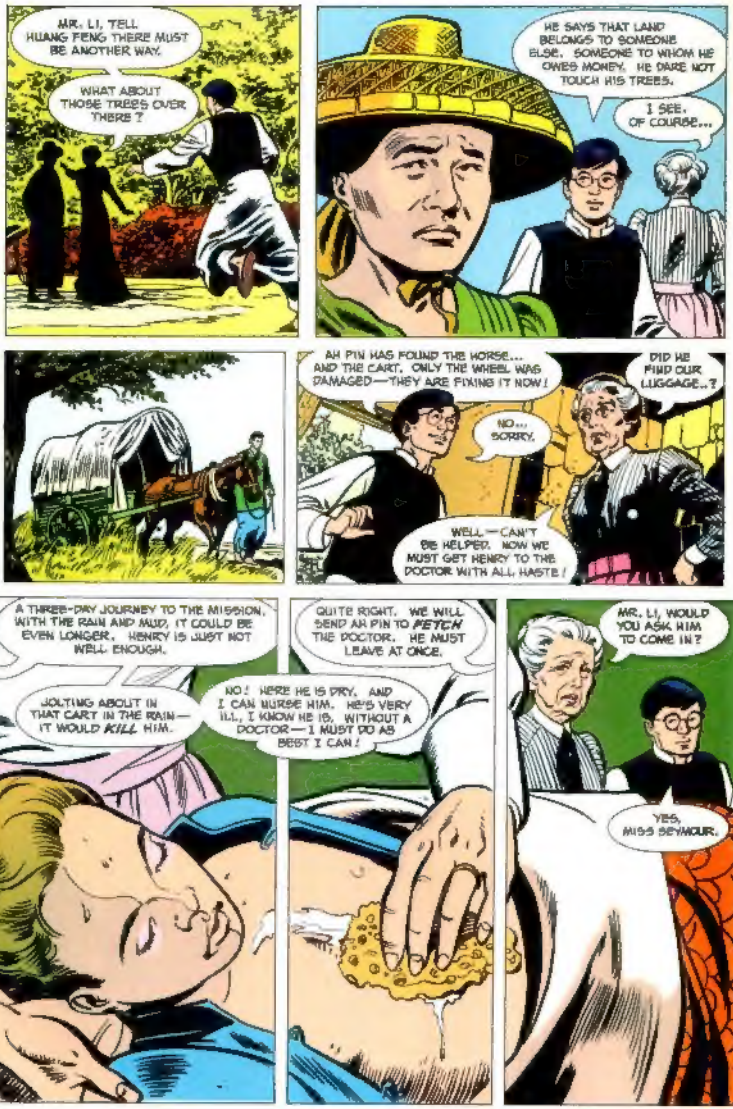
...A BAD PAIN.
THE FEVER'S RETURNED. HE'S HOT... AND SHIVERING. OH, IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE A PROPER FIRE!
I'M AFRAID THEY CAN'T AFFORD THE FUEL.

THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO FEED US, EITHER. IF ONLY WE HADN'T LOST OUR MONEY!
ONE FEELS SO— HELPLESS.
MOM, I'M COLD!
EEEEE- YIII EEEEEE!!

YIII ...†BOB†... <NO....NO!>
OHHH ...NO!!

<NO! PLEASE! NOT YOUR PLOW!>*

*IN CHINESE


MR. LI, TELL HUANG FENG THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.
WHAT ABOUT THOSE TREES OVER THERE?
HE SAYS THAT LAND BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE. SOMEONE TO WHOM HE OWES MONEY. HE DARE NOT TOUCH HIS TREES.
I SEE. OF COURSE...
AH PIN HAS FOUND THE HORSE... AND THE CART. ONLY THE WHEEL WAS DAMAGED—THEY ARE FIXING IT NOW!
DID HE FIND OUR LUGGAGE...?
NO... SORRY.
WELL—CAN'T BE HELPED. NOW WE MUST GET HENRY TO THE DOCTOR WITH ALL HASTE!
A THREE-DAY JOURNEY TO THE MISSION, WITH THE RAIN AND MUD, IT COULD BE EVEN LONGER. HENRY IS JUST NOT WELL ENOUGH.
JOLTING ABOUT IN THAT CART IN THE RAIN— IT WOULD KILL HIM.
NO! HERE HE IS DRY, AND I CAN NURSE HIM. HE'S VERY ILL, I KNOW HE IS. WITHOUT A DOCTOR—I MUST DO AS BEST I CAN!
QUITE RIGHT. WE WILL SEND AH PIN TO PEICH'U THE DOCTOR. HE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE.
MR. LI, WOULD YOU ASK HIM TO COME IN?
YES, MISS SEYMOUR.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT IF I HADN'T INSISTED ON THIS TRIP—
OH, MISS SEYMOUR—HELEN. MY HUSBAND WARNED ME OF THE DANGERS. I WOULDN'T LISTEN...
OHH, HELEN—IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO INDY...*SOB*!
HE SAYS HE WILL GET OUT AT ONCE. HUANG FENG HAS GIVEN HIM DIRECTIONS.
MY SAVEE PASUN HI PLENTY SICK. JOSS PIDGINMAN FETCHEE, CHOP, CHOP!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HE WILL FETCH CLERGYMAN. CLERGYMAN IS ALSO A DOCTOR
IS HE SURE ..? —NO! I'M GOING WITH HIM!
HELEN! YOU CAN'T
IT IS A HARD JOURNEY—A LONG WAY AND BAD ROADS! WE CAN TRUST AH PIN
WILL HE BE ABLE TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR HOW URGENT IT IS? A BOY'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
THEN I WILL GO.
NO, MR. LI. MRS. JONES WILL NEED YOU HERE TO EXPLAIN WHAT SHE NEEDS. COME, AH PIN. WE MUST BE UNDERWAY.
THERE, THERE, MRS. JONES. NOW JUST KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP.. AND KEEP HENRY WARM.
OH, NO! MISS SEYMOUR—HELEN! YOUR BELOVED BOOKS!
R-RIP
I HAVE ALWAYS TAUGHT HENRY TO GET HIS PRIORITIES RIGHT I AM MERELY PRACTICING WHAT I HAVE PREACHED

MOMMA!
MOMMA!

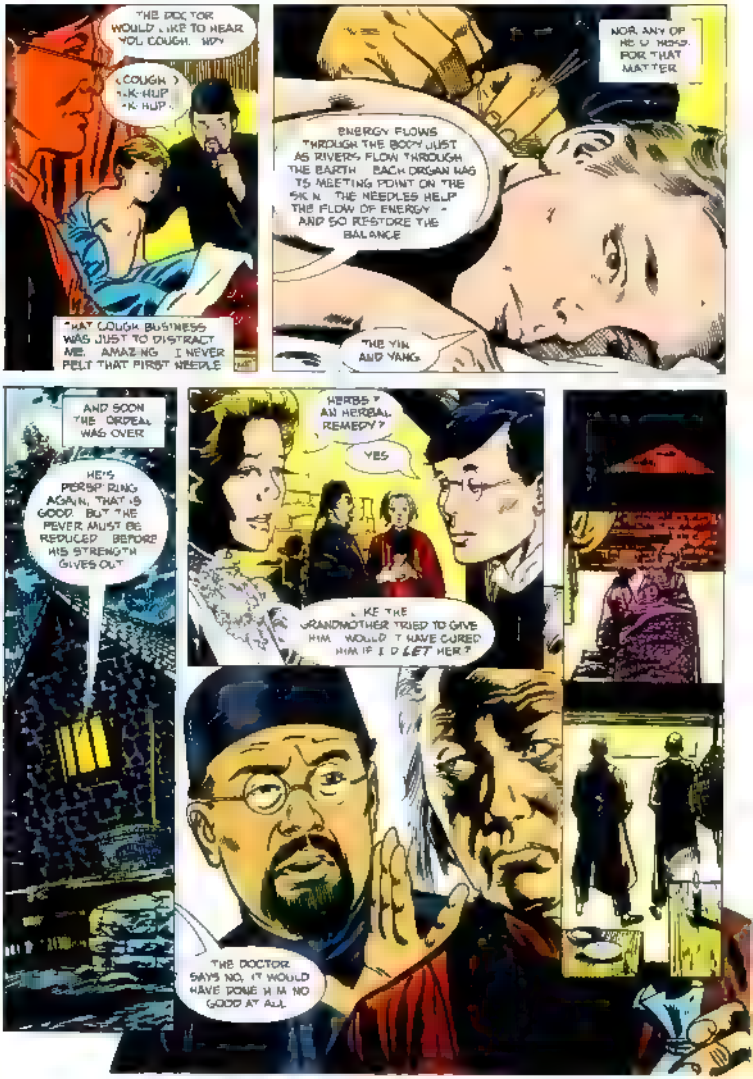
MOMMA, DON'T LET HER HURT ME!
SHE IS JUST OFFERING AN OLD HERBAL REMEDY
PLEASE— THANK HER BUT NO...
I'M DOING ALL I KNOW HOW —YET HE'S STILL SO FEVERISH SO VERY ILL...
MR. LI, TELL [redacted] CH NESE DOCTOR ...HIS TRAINING—
HE WILL KNOW ABOUT THE TAO— THE WAY OF NATURE—AND ABOUT YIN AND YANG AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO EARTH AND HEAVEN.
IT MUST ALL SOUND STRANGE TO YOU, MRS. JONES, BUT CH.NESE DOCTORS HAVE ACHIEVED SOME REMARKABLE CURES
YES, I'M SURE BUT HIS FATHER WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME IF THAT IS, I THINK I SHOULD WAIT FOR THE AMERICAN DOCTOR.
...MOAN...OHH WHO—? WHO'S—?
MA MA
WHAT IS THAT SHOUTING? ARE... ARE THEY BACK?
YAWN... OH CHOY...?
CHA? CHA?
TEA? OH, YES, THANK YOU.

MR. L ! ARE THEY HERE ? IS THAT THE DOCTOR ?
NO, MR. [redacted]. IT'S JUST A MAN WHO HAS BUSINESS WITH HUANG FENG.
THAT MAN WAS A DEBT COLLECTOR THREATENING TO SEIZE HUANG FENG'S FARM.
PLEASE TELL THEM TO BE QUIET HENRY IS ASLEEP AND--
Y!!—AAAA ! GET AWAY.. GET AWAY FROM ME..
HENRY ! HONEY
WHO ARE YOU ? GO AWAY
HENRY, IT'S MOTHER !
HELP ME SOMEBODY HELP ME !
OHH, WHEN WILL THE DOCTOR GET HERE ?
TWO DAYS, AT BEST IF THEY FOUND THEIR WAY AND THE DOCTOR WAS AT THE MISSION
CHOY— WHAT IS IT ?

MR. ..! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY ARE PRAYING FOR YOUR SON TO HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY
NO!! I WON'T LET HIM DIE!
VERY WELL. PLEASE... FETCH THE DOCTOR
THE CHINESE DOCTOR
OH DEAR, OH DEAR
A LONG, PAINFUL SILENCE..
THEN FINALLY
?! MR ... - WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHING?

HE IS LOOKING—THAT IS THE FIRST RULE
AND NOW HE LISTENS...
THE DOCTOR IS ASKING WHAT THE SYMPTOMS WERE, AND WHEN THEY FIRST APPEARED.
AT THE INN—ABOUT TWO DAYS AGO. HE SAID HIS HEAD HURT. THE STOMACH PAINS AND DIARRHEA CAME AFTER WE ARRIVED HERE.
BUT THE FEVER BEGAN COMING ON ABOUT FIVE...OR SIX DAYS AGO.
NOW THE DOCTOR TAKES THE PULSE OF EACH HAND...IN MANY PLACES. EACH PLACE RELATES TO A DIFFERENT PART OF THE BODY.
DOCTOR WEN CHIU SAYS YOUR SON IS *VERY* ILL. THE YANG REGIONS AND THE YIN REGIONS HAVE ALL BEEN ATTACKED.
YOU SEE, YANG AND YIN ARE THE TWO OPPOSITES WHICH CONTROL THE UNIVERSE, AND SO THE HUMAN BODY. YIN IS MOIST, WEAK, FEMININE, YANG IS DRY, STRONG, MASCULINE
BALANCE AND HARMONY CAN THERE BE SPRING WITHOUT AUTUMN, SUMMER WITHOUT WINTER?
PLEASE—GET TO THE POINT. WHAT ABOUT HENRY? CAN WE HELP HIM?
THIS IS THE SIXTH DAY OF THE FEVER. IF THE YANG ORGANS AND YIN ORGANS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED —THEN HENRY...
NO. OH, NO
NO!!
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN DAMAGED IF WE CAN RESTORE THE HARMONY BETWEEN YIN AND YANG, THEN HENRY MAY LIVE

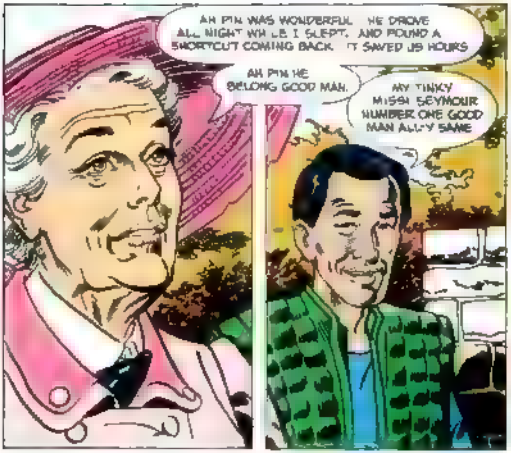
T IS WELL THIS S NOT THE T ME OF THE NEW MOON. IT WOULD BE BAD TO PERFORM ACUPUNCTURE DURING THE NEW---
ACUPUNCTURE? H HE'S NOT GOING TO ST CK THOSE NEEDLES NTO MY SON? I WON'T PERMIT IT!
NO DON'T LET HIM MOM...!
< F I AM TO SAVE TH'S BOY. THE MOTHER MUST LEAVE >
PLEASE, MRS. JONES, YOU MUST TRUST HIM T'IS THE ONLY HOPE
OH, GOD! HELP ME HELP MY BOY! GOD PLEASE HELP ME
MOMMA MOMMA!
NO! IF MY BOY IS GOING TO DIE I WANT TO BE WITH H M
MOM, I'M SCARED
MOM S HE GOING TO HURT ME?
I DON'T KNOW, HONEY. BUT WE MUST TRUST H M HE'S GOING TO MAKE YOU WELL NOW LET'S LIFT YOU UP SO YOU'RE MORE COMFORTABLE, OKAY?


THE DOCTOR WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOU COUGH. NOW
(COUGH) *K-HUP *K-HUP.
THAT COUGH BUSINESS WAS JUST TO DISTRACT ME. AMAZING. I NEVER FELT THAT FIRST NEEDLE
NOR ANY OF HIS O THERS. FOR THAT MATTER
ENERGY FLOWS THROUGH THE BODY JUST AS RIVERS FLOW THROUGH THE EARTH. EACH ORGAN HAS ITS MEETING POINT ON THE SKIN. THE NEEDLES HELP THE FLOW OF ENERGY - AND SO RESTORE THE BALANCE
THE YIN AND YANG
AND SOON THE ORDEAL WAS OVER
HE'S PERSPIRING AGAIN. THAT'S GOOD. BUT THE FEVER MUST BE REDUCED BEFORE HIS STRENGTH GIVES OUT
HERBS? AN HERBAL REMEDY?
YES
LIKE THE GRANDMOTHER TRIED TO GIVE HIM. WOULD I HAVE CURED HIM IF I'D LET HER?
THE DOCTOR SAYS NO. IT WOULD HAVE DONE HIM NO GOOD AT ALL

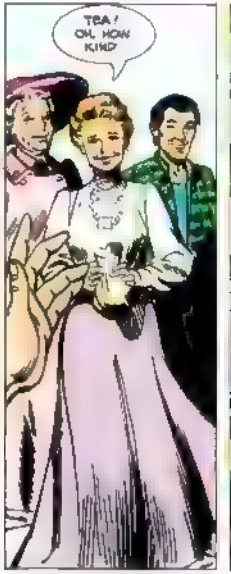
POOR DEAR. WE'VE BEEN FORCE FEEDING HIM EVERY HOUR
NO NO MORE I WON'T HAVE HIM DISTURBED ANYMORE MR. LI. WHAT HE NEEDS NOW IS REST
< LET IT BE AS THE MOTHER WISHES. WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE CAN IF THERE HAS BEEN NO INTERNAL INJURY AND HIS STRENGTH HOLDS OUT HE WILL LIVE IF NOT >
KLIP KLOP KLIPKLOP sploSh KLiPPetyKLOPKLIP

MISS SEYMOUR
MR. ... THIS IS DR. JAMES MORTON FROM THE AMERICAN MISSION MR. LI XIN SHUI OUR GUIDE AND OUR FRIEND
AND THIS S DR. WEN CH-IU!
OH, REALLY?! DR. WEN CH-IU!
<IT IS INDEED AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, SIR A GREAT HONOR >
YOU ARE VERY FORTUNATE, MADAM DR WEN CH-IU IS QUITE FAMOUS. HE HAS HAD SOME REMARKABLE SUCCESSES, ESPECIALLY WITH TYPHOID
TYPHOID?!
I WOULD THINK SO, FROM WHAT MISS SEYMOUR HAS TOLD ME
HMM

WELL, YOUNG GENTLEMAN, I WOULD SAY YOU ARE DEFINITELY ON THE MEND
THANK YOU DR MORTON
DR. WEN CH-IU, XIEXIE
DR. WEN CH-IU SAYS, UNWORTHY AS HE IS, HE IS GLAD HIS EFFORTS WERE OF SERVICE
NOW, DON'T FORGET HE NEEDS PLENTY OF REST. AND, AS DR. WEN CH-IU SAID, A VERY LIGHT DIET
DON'T TRY TO FEED HIM UP TOO QUICKLY NOW
I WON'T AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING SO MUCH SOONER THAN WE EXPECTED
THEY HAVE FOUND SOME OF YOUR LUGGAGE
OH WHAT A BLESSING THAT IS


AH PIN WAS WONDERFUL. HE DROVE ALL NIGHT WHILE I SLEPT, AND FOUND A SHORTCUT COMING BACK. IT SAVED US HOURS
AH PIN HE BELONG GOOD MAN.
MY TINKY MISSY SEYMOUR NUMBER ONE GOOD MAN ALLY SAME

MISS SEYMOUR I DOUBT YOU WILL EVER RECEIVE A GREATER COMPLIMENT.
OH, ALMOST FORGOT —HERE, FOR THE FAMILY.


TEA! OH, HOW KIND!

MAI-LING HAD DONE NOTHING BUT WORK FROM THE TIME SHE WAS ABLE. IT WAS FUN TO TEACH HER TO PLAY CHECKERS
<THERE. NO, NO. THERE, MAI-LING.>
TII SEE- HEEEEEE!
<NO, NO, CHENG.>
WE NEED THOSE CHECKERS. GIVE THEM BACK.
YES. MAI-LING THERE. MOVE THERE. <SEE? YOU WOW!>
HEY, CHENG — YOU LITTLE RASCAL. I'LL...
SQUEEEAL... HEEHEEEE...
SAY, WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE OUT THERE?

MR. LI, WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUANG FENG HAS A LITTLE DIFFICULTY.
HE COULD NOT GROW ENOUGH TO FEED HIS FAMILY. HE HAD TO BORROW MONEY AND GIVE HIS LAND AS SECURITY NOW..
NOW HE CAN'T REPAY THE MONEY
SO THEY HAVE COME TO TAKE THE LAND?
HOW MUCH DOES HE OWE?
FIVE GOLD PIECES.
WHY, THAT'S LESS THAN WE SPEND IN A WEEK!
WHERE IS MY PURSE?
NO, NO, YOU CANNOT DO THAT, MRS. JONES. HE WOULD LOSE FACE.
HE WOULD RATHER LOSE HIS HOME AND HIS LAND THAN TO LOSE FACE?
WE SHALL SEE.

I AM MRS. HENRY JONES. HUANG FENG IS A GREAT GENTLEMAN AND HIS WIFE IS A GREAT LADY I AM IN THEIR DEBT SIR
A DEBT I COULD NEVER REPAY. MORE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS THAN YOU COULD EVER COUNT, SIR—MORE THAN YOU COULD EVEN IMAGINE!
YET NEVER— NOT ONCE - HAVE THEY EVER REMINDED ME OF THAT DEBT
FORGIVE ME, HUANG FENG I AM A POOR DEBTOR. I CANNOT REPAY YOU
BUT, IF YOU WILL BE SO KIND AND GRACIOUS TO ACCEPT, I CAN PAY YOU SOME SMALL PART OF WHAT I OWE YOU.
PLEASE - I BEG YOU, DO NOT LET ME LEAVE THIS HOUSE SO DEEPLY IN YOUR DEBT. BE GENEROUS. ALLOW ME TO REPAY SOME SMALL PORTION OF WHAT I OWE YOU.
YEP. MY MOM WAS QUITE A LADY
HUANG FENG PAID OFF THE FARM AND BEFORE WE LEFT.

...WE GOT THE BEST DARN THANKSGIVING FEAST I'VE EVER HAD.
BUT, WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH CRANBERRY SAUCE, GREAT-GRANDPA?
NOT A WHOLE LOT. BUT HERE, HARRY. TRY SOME
YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND THAT—JUST LIKE ME —YOU HATE IT!
FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE, LET US ALL BE TRULY THANKFUL

ACUPUNCTURE

BY KURT BUSIEK

Well, here we are in the last issue of Dark Horse Comics' YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES series -- the end of a journey that began in Cairo and traveled through Europe, Africa, Mexico and finally to exotic and mysterious China. And what better way to wrap things up than with a story concerning acupuncture -- a traditional Chinese medical practice that's still largely as strange and misunderstood to most Americans today as it was in young Indy's time? Still, for all that acupuncture seems like a crackpot idea to a lot of people, it's undeniable that many of the claims made about acupuncture are accurate.

So what is acupuncture? How does it work? How did it come to be regarded as it is today?

* * * * *

It's impossible to do more than guess at how acupuncture was invented, since it has been used in China for thousands of years, long before the advent of reliable historical records. But it's believed that acupuncture began some time before the year 2500 BC -- and it's known that thanks to such processes as acupuncture and moxabustion, traditional Chinese medicine was capable of diagnosing such diseases as gout, cirrhosis of the liver and more centuries before western medicine was able to. And yet, Chinese medical thought depended almost entirely on theory -- since one of their beliefs was that even a dead body must remain intact so that the deceased spirit could join his ancestors, they were unable to perform dissections, and as such had no practical knowledge of human anatomy.

Instead, ancient Chinese doctors relied on a theory that held that all life is interrelated, and is regulated by the flow of various energies. Central to this theory is the idea that all things contain and are affected by Yin and Yang energy. Yin energy is negative, dark and passive, and is represented by the earth, and Yang energy is positive, light and active, and is represented by the heavens. Yin and Yang energy are also considered to be female and male energies, respectively; the ancient Chinese were as sexist as any Western society in that respect. Regardless, the ancient Chinese believed that all things in the universe contained Yin and Yang, and the human body was no exception. At times, Yin energy would predominate, at times Yang, depending on the season, the location, the time of day and the specific object -- for instance, the heart and lungs were considered Yin organs, the surface skin Yang. This shifting balance between Yin and Yang is essential to maintaining health -- if the energies become imbalanced, or are somehow prevented from flowing smoothly, disease will result. Why? Because of a third kind of energy -- ch'i, the basic life force that flows through the body. Without Yin and Yang in harmony, the flow of ch'i will be disrupted.

According to Chinese tradition, the rules and theories of this approach to medicine were developed by two great emperors, Shen Nung and Huang Ti, who are said to have ruled China in the 27th and 28th centuries BC. Shen Nung is revered as the creator of herbal therapy, along with dentistry and agriculture; his great contribution to Chinese medicine is found in the Pen Ts'ao, a voluminous list of hundreds of herbal remedies for illness and poison. Huang Ti, who came after him, is known as the inventor of the rickshaw, musical instruments, and the Nei Ching, the "Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine," which set forth the principles of anatomy, medicine and health, including those of acupuncture. What basis in fact these legendary figures have, if any, is impossible to tell, since the Pen Ts'ao and the Nei Ching originally existed as oral traditions and were not written down until centuries and possibly millennia after their creation.

Because of these ancient traditions, Chinese medicine is very different from Western medicine. Western medicine is symptom-oriented -- we generally don't go to the doctor until something's wrong with us. And if, say, you've got an upset stomach, the doctor will try to cure your stomach pain, on the theory that once the problem is fixed, you'll be healthy again. But Chinese medicine is preventative -- it's

aimed at making sure the patient stays healthy so disease doesn't occur in the first place. And if a Chinese patient had a stomachache, the doctor would attempt to restore general health -- by correcting whatever Yin/Yang imbalance existed -- on the theory that once the patient was back to normal, the stomach pain would go away. It's an old Chinese saying that a good doctor keeps his patients healthy, a mediocre doctor treats illness as it threatens to arise and a bad doctor treats illness once it's already there.

So ancient Chinese medicine centered around maintaining the proper balance between Yin and Yang and the smooth flow of ch'i. It was believed that ch'i flowed through the body along twelve major channels, called meridians, and along many lesser channels. Each of the twelve meridians was connected with a major organ, like the heart or the liver, and with other bodily systems as well. Acupuncture functions by tapping into these meridians -- by allowing Yin or Yang energy to increase or dissipate at certain spots and thus in the organs those meridians control -- rather like valves in plumbing control flow through the pipes, either by building pressure up or by allowing it to escape. Once Yin and Yang are brought back into balance, the ch'i will again flow freely and the patient will return to health.

* * * * *

So that's the theory behind acupuncture. What do acupuncturists actually do?

Well, as you've seen in this story, what they do is insert extremely thin needles into the body at any of the many points along the major meridians or lesser, specialized meridians. That's where the name comes from -- "acu" is from "accuracy," and refers to the precision with which the needles are inserted, and given that, the "puncture" part isn't hard to figure out.

But it's not as simple as just sticking needles into people. A fully-trained acupuncturist goes through between six and ten years of study before becoming qualified to practice the craft. The acupuncturist has got to learn the location of all the meridians and all the specific contact points on those meridians that affect the body -- it does no good to insert a needle even a fraction of an inch off, and great care has to be taken to avoid hitting blood vessels unintentionally. The acupuncturist has also got to learn the delicate craft of pulse diagnosis. Traditional Chinese medicine holds that there are twelve pulses in the human body, and they can be read through six points each on either arm. The pulses in the left arm are those of the heart, the liver, the kidney, the small intestine, the gall bladder and the bladder; the pulses in the right are those of the large intestine, the stomach, the lungs, the spleen and two non-physical organs (organs that Chinese philosophy describes, but don't have actual physical forms), the "triple-warmer" and the "circulation-sex." As Dr. Wen Ch-iu demonstrates, an acupuncturist has to learn to do a full diagnosis of any disease or ailment through the time-honed practice of watching the patient's external signs, discussing the patient's symptoms, taking a careful reading of all of his pulses and then and only then determining which needles to insert and where.

The needles themselves are special too, of course. In ancient times, they were made of bone or stone, but in the modern era acupuncturists use hair-thin flexible steel needles. Most needles are inserted less than half an inch -- often little more than a tenth of an inch -- but some procedures call for the needles to be inserted close to ten inches deep! But while all of this talk of needles may make it seem like acupuncture is painful, it's not. The needles are so thin and are inserted with such precision that the overwhelming majority of patients don't feel any pain at all -- and those who do report that the sensation is far less than that of a pin-prick.

The spots on the meridians that the needles are inserted aren't necessarily close to the organs or body areas they affect. For instance, to anesthetize the abdomen, the acupuncturist inserts a needle in the ball of the thumb. Also, the purpose of the meridian points varies widely -- a needle inserted at one spot is supposed to treat heart pains, and a needle inserted only a short distance away is for nosebleeds. An acupuncturist must know every spot on the meridians and their purposes as well as surely and immediately as a violinist knows the speed and pressure to draw the bow across the right strings to produce the desired sounds -- and there are literally hundreds of such spots.

It doesn't stop there, either. Once the needles are in, they may be twirled, twisted or heated to produce the desired effect. In modern times, some acupuncturists connect certain needles to a low-level electrical current while they're inserted, to speed the

effect the needle has on energy-balance in the body. Also, the acupuncture treatment is often combined with another treatment, like moxabustion. Moxabustion involves burning little cones of herbs (moxa), either on the heads of the needles or directly on the meridian-points themselves, to treat the energy-imbalance through a sudden, but gentle, heat. Again, the heat produced is not enough to hurt, just enough to do the job.

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So does acupuncture work? For years, American medical authorities said no. They thought it was a superstitious religious practice that had no connection to logical, scientific medicine and therefore had no place in the world of healing. But others thought differently. By the early 1970s, doctors in many countries outside of China, notably France and Canada, had recognized that acupuncture had definite benefits, even if they couldn't explain how it worked. And in 1971, acupuncture began to make headlines around the United States, as well.

James Reston, a respected journalist, editorial columnist and vice president of the New York Times, was among a group of American reporters invited to China in '71 by the Communist government. While there, he witnessed an operation in which a Chinese man's lung was surgically removed, under no other anesthetic than a single acupuncture needle. During the operation, the patient was conscious, and was able to speak and even eat while surgeons worked on his chest cavity. This experience was not enough to dispel American skepticism about acupuncture, however -- medical theorists suggested it might have been a put-up job, and the patient had received some other form of anesthesia before Reston and the others began observing. It's interesting to wonder what the point of such a masquerade would be, since in any case it demonstrated an anesthetic process that allowed major surgery with the patient fully conscious and not connected to any machines, something that would be just as big a shock to western medicine as acupuncture -- but a further, less readily dismissed piece of evidence came up swiftly.

In July of 1971, while still in China, Reston came down with acute appendicitis, and required immediate surgery. It's been reported in many places that Reston was anaesthetized via acupuncture for the surgery, but while it makes for a better story, it simply isn't true. Reston received a conventional spinal anesthetic for the operation -- but after the operation, Reston developed gastritis, a painful stomach ailment that often follows an appendectomy. Those pains were treated with acupuncture, and within twenty minutes were completely gone. Reston's first-hand account of the benefits of acupuncture made headlines around the world, and opened the way for acupuncture to be taken more seriously in the U.S.

In the wake of Reston's experience, acupuncture has gained increased acceptance as a method of anesthesia, though other claims about acupuncture are still viewed with suspicion. Nonetheless, while medical researchers are willing to say that acupuncture works, at least as an anesthetic, they're still unable to say how it works. One theory is that the needles stimulate the nervous system in some way that blocks pain reception messages from the affected parts of the body from reaching the brain -- sort of the organic equivalent of a busy signal. Another theory suggests that the needles, inserted at particular points along the meridians, cause the body to create endorphins and enkephalins, natural opiates that the human body uses to fight pain. This theory was partially substantiated when researchers used acupuncture to anaesthetize lab animals, then drew blood from anaesthetized animals and injected it into animals that did not receive acupuncture. The new animals, it was discovered, became partially anaesthetized, suggesting that acupuncture caused a change in the blood composition. Still, this is only a more exacting proof that acupuncture works -- it still doesn't explain how the needles trigger the release of endorphins, if that's indeed what they do.

Still another theory holds that acupuncture is a "placebo" -- that it doesn't actually do anything, but because the patient is convinced it'll work, the patient psychosomatically induces the effects. If this is the case, of course, it makes no difference -- as long as the process works, for whatever reason, it's valuable -- but it's hard to explain why, by this theory, acupuncture works on American cynics like Reston and the many others who've found it effective over the years. Moreover, the process works on animals, too -- not exactly subjects who've been swayed by what they've read or been told.

Even stranger theories have been advanced -- researchers in Korea claim to

have discovered physical evidence that the meridians are actual physical channels in the human body, a separate network like the circulatory system or the nervous system, that carries a fluid rich in ch'i energy -- but their findings haven't been widely accepted. And Russian scientists advanced the theory that the well-known "Kirlian aura," a bio-electric field that reportedly surrounds and permeates all living things, much like the "force" in the Star Wars movies, corresponds exactly to the meridians of acupuncture in the human body. Their claim is that acupuncture caused changes in the Kirlian aura which itself affects the way this bio-electric energy flows through the body and connects us with the greater universe, which sounds very much like a scientific description of the Chinese Yin-Yang theory. Unfortunately, while it's easy to argue that theories like these must be true, since Western science scoffs at them just as much as it did at acupuncture or the idea that the world was flat until it was pragmatically proven otherwise, it's just as easy to dismiss them as the same kind of bad science and irrational thinking that once led men to believe that potatoes were poisonous because the potato plant is related to the deadly nightshade plant, or that plenty of fat was a sign of health. Acupuncture remains a mystery, and until Western science is able to explain it adequately, it will face an uphill battle for acceptance in our society.

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Still, in recent years acupuncture has made great strides in this country. While the Food and Drug Administration still classifies acupuncture as an "experimental" procedure, and most insurance companies refuse to pay for acupuncture unless it's prescribed by a conventional doctor (and some not even then), acupuncture has been growing in presence and popularity. It has been written about favorably in Time, Newsweek, American Health, U.S. News & World Report and other magazines. There are an estimated 10,000 acupuncturists in the U.S., giving 240,000 treatments weekly to their patients, who number in the millions. Twenty-one states license acupuncturists, and while in twenty-four states, only a conventionally-trained physician is legally allowed to practice acupuncture, an estimated 3,000 M.D.s do so. Acupuncture is regularly used to treat anxiety, arthritis, asthma, back pain, depression, high blood pressure, menstrual pain, tendonitis and many other ailments. It's even used on pets and farm animals in some cases.

Acupuncture is also used in dentistry -- it was originally adopted by some dentists as a way to anaesthetize patients who are immune to Novocaine and other dental anesthetics, but once patients discovered that there was a way to avoid both the pain of dental surgery and that painful Novocaine needle, they began asking for it for themselves as well. Another dramatic use of acupuncture is in the area of drug addiction. Acupuncture can alleviate the cravings that addicts feel, and make it easier for them to kick their addiction -- and since it involves no chemicals, it doesn't pose the risk of substituting one addiction for another, as happened with Methadone treatments. As a result, there are over two hundred acupuncture programs for drug addicts nationwide -- twenty-five government funded programs in New York City alone -- and even habitual smokers are discovering that acupuncture can help them quit as well.

Acupuncture doesn't work for everybody, another factor that has led some to call it a placebo -- but for the greater proportion of the population, its effect is undeniable and irrefutable. So with that one fact on its side, despite being dismissed as folk superstition, described as experimental even though it's been around longer than virtually all of Western medicine, misunderstood and maligned, acupuncture has overcome its air of mystery and ill "crackpot" reputation, to make a place for itself in the modern world.

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I AM OUTTA HERE! It's been quite a trip, adventuring with young Indy and learning about all the strange places and interesting people he met on his travels, and I hope all you readers out there have had as much fun with it as I have. So for those of you who've been reading THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES from the start, congratulations for making it all the way to the end, and for those of you who came in late -- hey, think of all the fun you can have finding the back issues you missed!